



## **SiCkb0y's Custom Travel Guide**

# Prague

## Things to Do Tips

### St. John Nepomucene

**Source:** Prague Things to Do by Ciambella; Jun 28, 2006

**Description:** The cause of St. John of Nepomuck's death has been an issue of controversy in the Church since the XVIII century. A few historians mentioned two Johns of Nepomuch -- one was the father confessor of Queen Johanna and the other, Vicar-General of Prague -- both were thrown into the Vltava to drown, their deaths were ten years apart. However, most scholars believe the XIV century records showing there was only one John and his death was caused by both aforementioned reasons. John was born in 1340 in Nepomuck, Pilsen, Bohemia. He became Vicar-General for the Archdiocese of Prague in 1390. The discord between John and King Wenceslas IV happened after the vicar steadily refused the King's request in divulging the Queen's confession. As if he did not think that was enough to infuriate the King, the vicar also expressed his sentiment by publicly declaring, "Only he who rules well is worthy of the name of king." Not known as a good sport, King Wenceslas found an excellent opportunity to revenge. He ordered that another abbot would not be elected when Abbot Rarek of Kladrau passed on because the abbey church would be turned into a cathedral. Completely ignoring the King's order, the vicar confirmed Odelenus as the new abbot. When the news reached the King, all persons involved in the election were arrested. Although his council did not handle torture well, John of Nepomuch refused to yield even when parts of his body were burned. On March 20, 1393, the King ordered that the vicar be chained and led through the city with a block of wood in his mouth. When the parade ended, John of Nepomuck was thrown from the Karlsbrücke into the river Vltava. He was later buried in Prague Cathedral. In 1719, during the gathering of evidences for the beatification, the vicar's grave was opened and his tongue was found intact. St. John Nepomucene was canonized in 1729. His statues were erected in several locations in Prague, but the most visited one is on Charles Bridge.

**Address:** Karlův most



### Prague Castle

**Source:** Prague Things to Do by sue\_stone; Dec 29, 2005

**Description:** Prague's castle sits upon a hill, grandly looking over the city. It is the main draw card for visitors (besides the beer!!) and is a must see on anyone's itinerary. The entrance to the castle is via the beautiful Hradcanske Square which is lined with fabulous baroque and renaissance houses. We paid a visit to the castle first thing one morning, trying to beat the crowds...it wasn't too crowded, but still plenty of tour groups around. There are several attractions located with the castle grounds. You can buy different priced tickets depending on which attractions you wish to visit, though it is free to enter the castle grounds - there are plenty of photo opportunities here without having to pay a cent. If you do get a ticket to enter the palace, for example, you will have to pay extra if you wish to take photos inside. We enjoyed a look around the Royal Palace and St Georges Convent. The views from the castle over Prague are pretty special too.

**Address:** Pražský hrad

**Directions:** Nearest metro: Malostranská or Hradčanská

**Website:** www.hrad.cz



## St Vitus s Cathedral

**Source:** Prague Things to Do by sue\_stone; Dec 29, 2005

**Description:** My favourite part of our visit to Prague's castle was St Vitus s Cathedral. This magnificent gothic cathedral is one of the prominent landmarks in Prague - you can see its main towers from across the city. It is the largest cathedral in the Czech Republic. Inside you can see the impressive High Alter and some pretty impressive painted glass windows. There is also the Chapel of St Wenceslas and the silver tomb of St John of Nepomuk. The outside is what captivated me so much...spectacular...and the subject of a large number of photos!

**Address:** Prague Castle grounds

**Directions:** Nearest metro: Malostranska or Hradcanska

**Website:** [www.hrad.cz](http://www.hrad.cz)



## Counting Toward The End

**Source:** Prague Things to Do by Ciambella; Jun 28, 2006

**Description:** Legends notwithstanding, the astronomical clock was not made by a man who was blinded after the work was done, who in turn spitefully broke the clock mechanism before his death. Records credit the idea and design to a physician/rector/professor of astronomy and math at Charles University named Iohannes Andreae dictus Schindel (Jan Ondrejuv known as Sindel). With his design and the skill of a clock master named Nicolas of Kada, the astronomical clock was created in 1410. The original clock only showed astronomical data including the movement of the sun, the moon, and the ecliptic; all mechanical figures were added in centuries later. The permanent figures surround the clock represent three of the seven cardinal sins and their ultimate destiny. On the left side of the clock, Superbia (Vanity) admires her reflection from a handheld mirror, and Avaritia (Greed) holds tight to a bag of money. On the right side, Death stands ready to strike while Acedia (Sloth) idling life away in music and dance. Every hour on the hour, Death pulls the bell while nodding his head to announce that time is up. The rest of the main casts shake their heads refusing to leave. The window flies open and the twelve apostles come running around in circle -- an act that holds no meaning except adding chaos to the unfolding drama between Death and the three sinners.

**Address:** Staroměstské náměstí, Old Town Square



## Old Town Square (Staromestske Namesti)

**Source:** Prague Things to Do by sue\_stone; Dec 29, 2005

**Description:** Just when I thought I had seen some of the most beautiful squares in Europe I saw Prague's Old Town Square and had to re-adjust my 'Top 10 Favourite Squares' list! The heart of the city, this is a large and lively square surrounded by fabulous buildings and lined with cafes. The perfect place for people watching...though keep an eye out for pick pockets. The buildings surrounding the square include the Old Town Hall, with its Astronomical Clock; the Church of Our Lady Before Tyn; St Nicholas Church; and Kinsky Palace which contains an excellent collection of graphic art from the middle ages till today. We spent quite a bit of time here, at various times of day, enjoying the way the look of the buildings changed with the light.

**Address:** Staromestske namesti

**Directions:** Heart of Old Town Nearest metro: Staromestska or Namesti Republiky

**Website:** <http://www.pragueexperience.com/places.asp?PlacelD=594>



## The City of Kafka

**Source:** Prague Things to Do by rexvaughan; Nov 28, 2005

**Description:** Kafka is certainly one of Prague's more famous sons, so it seemed appropriate that there is a museum dedicated to his life and work focused on Prague. As Kafka is a variation from the norm, so is the museum. For starters there is the unusual rotating statue urinating in a pool in front of the entrance. The inside is divided into two sections, 'Existential Space' and 'Imaginary Topography.' The museum has an impressive collection of his drawings, photographs, manuscripts, letters, and diaries as well as first editions of all Kafka's works. There are also 3-D installations and audiovisuals with soundtrack created for this exhibit. It is one of the more creative museums I have seen as it does seem to give you some of the 'existential' feel for Kafka and his city. There are lots of things related to Kafka in Prague, including his home and the building where his father's clothing business was located. I recommend this museum to give you good intro to his life. Open daily 10:00-18:00. Admission 240 Kc

**Phone:** 0420 221 451 333

**Address:** Hergetova Chhelna, Cihelna 2b, Prague 1

**Directions:** Just south of Metro Malostranska.

**Website:** <http://www.franzkafka-soc.cz/>



**Your Notes:**